

**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

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**CHP SWEEPS ROADS IN SECOND FARM WORKER VEHICLE STRIKE FORCE**

**SACRAMENTO – Yesterday’s sweep of farm worker vehicles by the California Highway Patrol (CHP) netted 254 vehicle stops in the latest of the CHP’s statewide strike force actions conducted to ensure safety for agricultural laborers.**

**The CHP pulled 31 vehicles out of service because they were too hazardous to allow on the road. Fifty-five drivers who were unlicensed or improperly licensed were not allowed to continue driving. Displaced workers were taken by the CHP to a safe place where they could obtain transportation.**

**“Workers deserve a safe trip to work, whether they work in a high-tech manufacturing facility or the vegetable fields and orchards,” said CHP Commissioner D. O. Helmick. “We don’t ever want another crash like the one that happened August 9 near Fresno.”**

**Thirteen people were killed in the August 9 collision west of Fresno when a farm labor van hit a truck/trailer rig.**

**The CHP strike forces yesterday checked vehicles carrying farm workers to determine if the vehicles were mechanically safe and properly certified and if drivers were licensed and trained.**

**The strike forces found violations that included: equipment (lights, tires and wheels, etc.); licensing; registration; and passengers in vehicles not designed for them.**

**“We’re not letting up until we’re sure all vehicles carrying farm workers are safe,” Helmick said.**

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